SWEET WOMAN'S CHATTER

May it be Music to the Ears of The Sun's Million Readers.

THE GIRL WHO CATCHES ON.

What She Must Expect if She is to be Successful in New York.

Mundreds Come Here Penntless, and After Months of Struggle Prosper-Others who Be Not Succeed-Half a Dozen Instances of Speasan-Nome of the Independent Cirts of the Great Metropolis-One who Lived on Two Bollars a Week-A Trio of Southorn Ciris who Began tu an Attie-One Strt's Night Trips to an Art School-Pinck and Perseverance that Win.

The most interesting and anomalous prodmet of the advanced civilization of the closing nineteenth century is the breezy, brainy, plucky girl of the period, with her indomitable energy, democratic instincts, refreshing common sense, and strong, sweet womanliness. The girl of the past cycle was a Micawber waiting for something to happen; the girl of to-day is a Napoleon making something happen. If lovers' yows are shattered, if fortune's bubble bursts, if life is a failure, she sits down and has her cry over it (she wouldn't be a girl if she didn't), and then she powders her nose, puts on her most becoming bonnet, and starts out into the world, not in the siready overcrowded. familiar avenues and highways, but through unexplored by-paths and by most original methods she mounts the Olympian hill of her own particular desire, which is no longer growned for her by a school house or mantuamaker's parlor. The flood tide of any great movement strews the shore with the flotsom and jetsom of the waves, and in this we find the woman seekers after notoriety, the ranting reformers of the ballot, morals, and petticoats, the unbalanced and brainless victim of the penny-a-liner's cheap jokes, and the paragraph fiend's well deserved ridicule.

The girl we are talking about is neither an agitator, reformer, nor a baby. Because one particular man has not begged the privilege of buying her bonnets and furnishing her pin money she denounces not all men as monsters. While she would give up the grandest career in music, science, or art to superintend dinners, sew on buttons, and rock babies for the man she loves, she doesn't propose to waste her talents grieving if he should happen to miss the train of circumstance which should bring him to her side. Marriage is beginning to become to a girl, as to a man, an incident in life, not its finale; and in the formulation of her plan of living it enters no more than in his

This typical girl is invariably as jolly as Mark Tapley, and the most remarkable thing about her is the way she gravitates toward the larger cities, with peither money, friends, nor influence, and wins them all three by sheer pluck and determination.

Take for instance the experience of one of New York's well-known woman artists. She was the spoiled darling of a most indulgent and prosperous father and lived in one of the handsome suburban residences of Chicago. She painted a few daisies on a placque in boarding school, and at once became inspired with the idea that the genius of a Corot awaited development in her slender fingers. When she insisted on studying art in Chicago she had her way, as she did when she teased for a new baby house or bonbons in her childhood. When nothing would satisfy her soaring ambition a little later, save an attempt to reproduce on cauvas the grandeur of the Yosemite. papa and mamma promptly packed their effeets and took her there. While she painted sunsets and cañons papa dabbled in real estate, and the day she finished her last picture he lost his last cent, and lay in the little garden outside the hotel with a bullet hole in his temple and a pistol clutched in his hand. The mother collapsed in the good old-fashioned way, and spent the rest of her life in semiinvalidism, wringing her hands and telling what "they used to do." Just why that girl should determine to come to New York with barely money enough to pay her travelling expenses, and no friends, is known only to the high priests of occult mysteries. But come she did, with the uscless mother and a little crude talent, and for two years painted menu cards, directed envelopes-anything that came

in her way-and lived on exactly \$2 a week. How? In a garret, without fire, without gas,

That was the beginning. A studio on the avenue was the end of the New York career, for while there, with a large class of pupils, a ready market for her pictures, and a cosey little home, her health suddenly failed, owing, the doctors said, to those years of starvation and deprivation. Quite undaunted she packed up r trunks, and her mother still. Niobe like, all tears, went to Colorado, built her house with the assistance of one man on the claim she took up, made her garden, lost her cough d her roses, and began anew. The land made her a rich woman in a few years, and her progress in art makes her a happy one.

Not half a dozen doors from where I write slender, diffident little maiden bends over a typewriter eight hours out of the twenty-four in the most ordinary way, but the world will know her some day. Her father left a lucrative business, because he interpreted the Bible so literally that he felt he must earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. Now, perspiration may be scriptural, but it isn't remune: ative, and will not educate musical daughters: consequently this girl began teaching in a Southern seminary, and finding that she could never accumulate money enough for her purpose at the salary paid, she studied stenography nights, taught in the day time, read ahead of her class in Crean she had never translated before, and studied shead of them in higher mathe maties, of which she knew little more than they. She had no teacher in stenography but submitted her work by letter to examination here, and when once proficient promptly started for the metropolis with just money enough to get here and to pay one week' board. Owing to her ignorance of localities the first week's boarding experience would make a story of itself, but now, though she has been here comparatively a short time, she has managed to accumulate sufficient money to enable her at the close of this year to devote her time entirely to the study of music. Just now, beside her regular employment, she practises in one line of work six hours a day, is

now. beside her regular employment, she practises in one line of work six hours a day, is studying for the American Conservatory of Music examination in an entirely different line, plays in a Mission Church on Sunday, and teaches in a Mission Church on Sunday, school, Girlilke she wants a home, and is negotiating with her friends for some kind of an association of interests which will enable them alt to have a little know on Fourteenth street, way up under the skylight of one of the tall buildings, is a little studio, with plaster casts on one side and very businesslike desk littered with circulars, letters, and bits of carved wood on the other. It has the homelike atmosphere which gris invariatly impart to any little nock they show themselves away in. While the artistic member of this lirm makes you a sip of tea and serves it in a dainty cup and saucer, the business member. In a very serviceable and trim costume of dark wool, restily fashioned, with its sharky, warm little jacks and Derby int. will tell you all about the bit of land in Florida with its orange grove which yleided them no income after the father's death until she began to attend to it berself; and how she obtains her private orders before the orange season leads to receive her cargo when it comes, marks her boxes, hires her truckman, and has no middleman to bother with or remunerate. But the orange season is short, and in the interim she sells the carved wood to architects and builders, and guthers up rare old rugs and va-es to resell to ia lies again, and all this in deflance of the adverse criticism of friends and relatives. Two years ago a trice of high-bred Southern beauties, as poor as they were proud, came here to saudy art, and set up houseleeping in two imy yooms, with a gas store for a range and a band-

ing, and the stories they laughlardy told of their banquets on five cents' worth of liver and a bit of banquets on five cents' worth of liver and a bit of banquets are assured as they were pathetic. One of them had a bit of land, and this she mortgaced this year for its full value; a rother of the schequet, and with this the plucky pair, the older of which of them is a file with the older of which of them is a file to have a series of the present their studies from her aristocratic lair face; but she is a Juno in bearing, and even in the wicked city of Paris we prophesy she will be as unharmed as Una with her lion, simply through her own tact and judgment, and even in the wicked city of Paris we prophesy she will be as unharmed as Una with her lion, simply through her own tact and judgment, and even in the wicked city of Paris we prophesy she will be as unharmed as Una with her lion, simply through her own tact and judgment, and even in the will be as unharmed as Una with her lion, simply through her own tact and judgment, and the little of the will be a series of the series of the will be a series of the series of the

o starve." But these failures are scarcely more frequent But these failures are scarcely more frequent than occur among young men coming to the city in the same way, and may be generally attributed to the fact that the girl who fails is usually the one who may know something about everything, but doesn't know everything about something. It is the girl who answers to the question. "What can you do?" by saying "Oh, anything," that has the greatest difficulty. People don't want "anything" done, but something done, and that something done well, and the girl who knows how to do one thing theroughly is bound to succeed.

The most unique employment lately taken up by these invaders of the domain of industry is house decoration, and a beautiful rose chamber in one of the handsome houses on Pily-ninth street is entirely the work of a young woman, who stood on a scaffolding and painted all through the day for weeks with an army of workmen in the house and not another woman within call. She went in after the men were at work, put on her working dress and generally managed to leave the

other woman within call. She went in after the men were at wark, put on her working dress, and generally managed to leave the building before their work was finished at night, though occasionally in her absorption she painted too late and was obliged to make her way through acrowd of them washing up in the lower hall, which was rather awkward, as she must crawi down the scaffolding about the stairway flat on her face, it was so near the ceiling.

ceiling. Another remarkable habit of these bright, Another remarkable habit of these oright, busy women is their fearless way of going about in the evening unattended. A girl demands a latch key like her big brother, and lets herself in with it as early or late.

A slight little slip of a girl at the Art Students League last winter came all the way from 125th street to an evening life class, in which she was the only woman, and didn't seem to think she had done anything very remarkable either, and yet the petted darlings of the avenue equally as old as she are not allowed to walk a block in broad daylight without a maid. One of these fearless little women said she never had had any adventures yet on these evening expeditions, and she was beginning to be simost vexed about it and to think she must be very unattractive.

beginning to be almost vexed about it and to think she must be very unattractive.

It is the hopeful, plucky girl who takes emergencies as a joke and accept privations as interesting experiences to be related with laughter when they are over, and who makes the best and most of things, that succeeds. When the ranks of women Custom House examiners were weeded out it was the healthy, happy, heariy women who were retained, and the firei-out, complaining ones were discharged, because the work was too hard for them. The joily girl, God bloss her, is, in the vernacular, the girl that gets there every time,

VARIOUS MANIFESTATIONS.

Can Every Woman Wear Black f-Mrs Langtry's Corsets-A Woman who Be-came An Invaild to be Economical-Bridesmalds who Rival Brides.

It seems to be an accepted fact that every ody can wear black. There was never anything more positively untrue. Black silk makes a dark woman took billous, and black satin gives a green tinge that would reem to combine envy with bile. Black wool dulls her skin and takes all the lustre out of her eyes. and the only black she can wear with absolutely good effect is black velwet. Black cashmere is the material of all others that will add to or take from the figure as the wisdom of the artist directs; made with perfect sintplicity, it will bring out every curve of the perfect figure: elaborately draped, it will conceal every angle of the bad one. Black satin makes a stout body look as if she could easily gain a good in come by posing as the fat woman in the museum: but black velvet, perfectly fitted and slightly draped, is softening in its effect, and while it gives rather a majestic appearance does not increase the size.

The old idea used to be that a blonde should

always wear blue, and never yellow. In reality, unless it be a dark blue, a blonde should never choose it, while the wonderful pale blues dedicated to heaven and the bables should be given over to the brunettes, whose warmth of color

cated to heaven and the bables should be given over to the brunettes, whose warmth of coloring permit comparison with the chilly blue. What woman looks best under the sunshine? A bionde. Therefore the very color of the sun fixelt, yellow, should be chosen by her forevening wear, while the warm browns that glow as if they had golden hearts, and the greens that permit fur trimmings, should be selected for steet wear.

Think of the blende women who have worn yellow on the stage. Fernhardt, with her steely blue eyes, pale blond hair and almost dead white skin, seemed a joy forever when, as the Fouries Theodora, she wore a yellow crèpe gown. Ellen Terry, with pale hair, eyes that are fascinning because of their expression rather than their shade or color, and a complexion that is almost ghastly, was a vision of loveliness in a yollow, frock, coquetting with a yellow fan, when, she posed as Facto, Lillie Langury, with a peach-like skin, warm brown hair and blue eyes, seemed like a great golden lose when she was dressed in yellow tulle draped with red popples. These are three distinct types of blondes, and each looke! her less framed in the color that the true stills has always deficated to blondes, which Monsieur Worth has been persuading her for years to take, and from which she has with a persistency which is feminine turned to the blue which freezes her and gives her an absolute lack of expression.

Ross is equally becoming to blondes or brinnettes; the shade known as shrimp being suited to the oark-haired sisters, while old rose, or even a fainter shade, is best for the yellow haired lassies. A brunette can be a symphony in pale gray. If a blonde wears gray she must warm it up with scarler, dark green velvet, or else take away its cold look with elaborate deverations of mink or sable fur.

White can be worn by althout every woman. Ivory is more becoming than dead white, and thule, slid, have a shroud-like air.

Heliotrope, in its lighter shade, may be worn effectively by blonde women who have dark

eres, by bruneties but not by a blue-ered, light-haired woman.

Scarlets are the delight alike of the blonds and brunette; but they do much more in the way of bringing out the good points of the first, giving tone to the skin and brightness to the eyes, while they are only just become the last.

Unique shades, or those having a sudden popularity, must be selected with care, and consideration given to the material chosen, the bourgeois woollen being oftener much more picturesque than the more aristocratic silk.

The latest petricoat is straight from Paris. and is untrimmed. It is simply a well-shaped skirt that looks as if it were made of leopard skin, but it is, in reality, a brocaded silk representing the skin of the wild beast. It is pleasantly warm to wear, and has a barbario look antly warm to wear, and has a barrante look delightful to the spart girl who likes to imagine that she can have a sweetheart brave enough to go out and kill wild animals, the skins of which she max use to keep her pretty self warm. Women to day are just as fond of manly sports as they used to be sure of it hefore the dude, the monocle, and the absinthe cocktail were in vogue.

A young woman with the motto craze has daintily embroidered in golden thread, on the silken case in which her garments rest at night, "Two of a kind make a pair." On a narrow skirt, which is fur trimmed and very narrow skirt, which is fur trimmed and which was the cause of her tumbling out of a stage the other day, she has etched in embroidery silk, just above the hem on the inside. Look before you leap." Her unbrells case bears the politic announcement that it is "For protection only," while on a bundle of letters sent back to a rejected lover impertingnee reached its height as they were tied with a blue ribben conveying the intelligence that "It's good to be off with the old love."

If you want a pair of corsets warranted to keep you in shape you ought to have them made like those worn by Mrs. Langtry. All stories to the contrary, she never got any here unless a pair was made in a hurry from one of her. Those she wears are of plain satin in her. Those she wears are of plain satin in pink, mauve or white; they are extremely long and have two very broad bones down the front that are under faced with plush, so that they may not burt her; the only opening is in the back where the cornets lace, and this has to be done every day exactly as our grandmothers did it many years ago. Mrs. I angrry does not believe that a corset closing in front is of any use to the flaure. Hers are made in Parls and cost \$40 spiece before the duty is paid on them.

With the spring the Directoire costume is certain to come to the front again. It has always been a very becoming style to the slender American woman. It is the very essence of coquetry, and yet, curiously enough, it has always been liked by men. Properly made, the petticoat is without trimming, but falls in full, heavy folds: that while they cover the lower part of the body, are yet sufficiently loose to give in to every movement, reveal the curves, and round the angles. The coat, with its long, straight take, is picturesque, and buttoning across the front, in double-breasted fashion, makes the waist seem smaller and apparently widens the bust. The brocaded waistcoat shows just below and above it. The throat is made to seem smaller and whiter by the black ribbon stock that by contrast make the lace cravat fastened with a flashing jewel the height of eigzance. The entire toilet is art in dress—a something that does not apply to the gowns worn in the evening at the same time. For one week petiticats were dispensed with, a chemise was not worn, and so much feminity was shown that it had no attraction. Quickly the ladies of the Directoire returned to the "half-revealing, half-concealing," which is, after all, perfect art. There is nothing in the world so beautiful as the figure of a woman, but ever since that little after. part of the body, are yet sufficiently loose to There is nothing in the world so beautiful as the figure of a woman, but ever since that little affair in the Garden of Eder, when covering became a necessity, there has been more than mere utility in knowing the way to do it. The woman with beautiful filps, who is low-busted, whose arms are slender, is the one who can wear a full, plain skirt, a round-walsted bodies held in by a broad belt and having very ful sleeves. As she moves the frou-frou of her gown makes you look; every part of her is in harmony; even her very movements seem in time to the music made by the silk. Her perfections are all brought out, her faults become virtues. This is the real art of the modiste.

Can you imagine a woman becoming an invalid to be economical? There is a bright woman here in New York who has put herself on the sick list this winter to save money. She is really not very strong looking, and she said she could not bear the strain of worrying as to how she should get new gowns for the Patriarchs and the Assembly and the different private balls. She had a great many handsome dinner dresses, velvets, silks, and brocades, and with the help of a clever little Frenchand with the help of a elever little Frenchwoman and the use of a lot of lace and fur
trimmings they have all been altered into the
most fetching of tea gowns. She no longer
has a day "at home." but every evening between 5 and 6 her friends drop in and see
her to cheer her up a bit. She makes a lovely
picture. She rests on a lounge with five or six
soft satin pillows behind her, so that really she
is half sitting up. Some one of her girl friends
serves the tea, and the place of honor is a low
stool healds the invalid's couch, where, over the
fragrant cup, her symptoms are detailed to the
sympathetic listener. She will tell you that she
can't go out to dinners, or to dances, or the sympathetic listener. She will tell you that she can't go out to dinners, or to dances, or the opera, but the doctor permits her to go to the theatre, because there she is amused without making exertion or wearying herself.

If you are a man and haven't a brickbat where your heart ought to be, you volunteer to get up a theatre, party, and you give a lovely

get up a theatre party, and you give a lovely supper afterward. She enjoys it immensely, and you tairly blush with delight when abe tells you that it's the first time she has been able to eat anything with any pleasure the entire winter, but she has enjoyed this supper. It's so well chosen. To save your soul you can't help sending her a basket of fruit the next day. You don't know exactly what's the matter with her, but you think it's something connected with her heart. The funny part of the whole thing is that the little woman is such a natural actress she is beginning to believe her own story.

You must have, if you are a smart hous keeper, a dozen of eatin damask servicites for your luncheon table, with mottoes from "Alic in Wonderland" embroidered upon them in gold thread. If you haven't chosen them for yourself and don't want to take the time, here

gold thread. If you haven't chosen them for yourself and don't want to take the time, here are a dozen for you:

"Feed not on us, the oyster cried."

"The butter's spread too thick."

"A loaf of bread is what we chiefly need."

"Soup of the evening, beautiful soup."

"Pepper and vinegar are very good indeed."

"Who for such daintles would not stoop?"

"Some gave them plum cake."

"The little fishes of the sea."

"Game, or any other dish."

"Cut us another slice."

"Thise if you please."

"The goose with the bones and the beak."

The prettiest way to show these is to have them laid over a small glass plate on which stands a colored glass fluger bowl that is very small at the bottom. Then bring them on before the ice is served; the finger bowl and servette will then be removed, the tee caten from the glass plate, and each one of your guests in arranging this will have an opportunity to look at the pretty work and read the quaint sentence. Usually it forms a very good and very safe subject for conversation.

You can use your own discretion about wear

You can use your own discretion about wear. ing belis on your pretty little toes, but if you want to be counted, as the pretty Faust of the Galety Company sings, "up to date," you mus wear rings on your fingers. Women like rings, first of all, because they make the hands look prettier, and next, because they are the only rnaments at which they can gaze themselve to have the hand look whiter because of a gree To have the hand look whiter because of a great red ruby glowing upon it, or a rich sappling convincing you just how deep blue may be, or an Alexandrite looking green in the daytims and pink at night is the ambition of the smart girl. Fortunately fashion dedicates certain ingers as the correct ones for circling with gems, and these are the third and little linger of each hand. Forme extremists who have put all their money in two or three specially hand-some rings, only allow that the left hand should be ornamented, but Dame Fashion herself is more generous. nore generous.

Do you keep a list-a list of the people wh are tiresome to you? The wise woman is the one who has a book on the cover of which is written is large letters and red ink. "Be ware of" The educated young woman who concludes

that the alphabet has been invented since he birth. The frivolous creature who thinks you are 'just dying" to know how her underwear is made.
The lovely young man who wears three diamond rings and thinks you are "just too sweet for anything."
The horrible old hypocrite who talks about

The horrible old hypocrite who take about ber position in society and the use she is to the world at large, when she would best serve it by decorating the inside of a tomb.

The old man who kisses you because he remembers your mother when she was a girl.

The young man who is loud and underbred, but who sheaks to you and mortifies you and claims a right to acquaintance because he once lived near you. claims a right to acquainteness it is about lived near you.

The mail envant who wants to talk about the last house in which she lived.

The man, woman, or nondescript, who never tires of telling you that they have seen better days, and who counts on that announcement covering everything in the future, and never

making an effort to think how really good this time is after all. The man with a low-out shirt, the woman with dwed hair, the boy who hasn't been taught good manners, and the girl who has been educated to believe that impudence and intelligence are synonymous.

The people who flatter, who find fault, and who never know what it is to say a good word for their neighbors

Bridesmaids are fast stealing the honors from brides with their picturesque quaint dresses and big drooping hats. The bride must confine herself to the regulation snowy garments of savin and tulle, but the maids brighten and beautify the wedding pageant with sweet artistic fantasies and rhapsodies in raiment, while the little pages, now so common at English weddings, and maids of honor revel in historical splendors of attire. At the recent wedding of Lord Baltimore's daughter the bridesmalds wore dresses of white poult de soid, draped with white gauze and trimmed with silver galoon, and immense white hats covered with snowy ostrich feathers. The single tiny page who carried the bride's train wore a Louis XIV. court dress of white satin, trimmed with silver, with lace 'ruffles and cravat, and silver buttons and shoe buckles.

At another wedding, where no bridesmalds officiated, recently the pages were all in ruby plush, with white vests fastened with cut steel buttons, collars and cuffs of Irish lace,

steel buttons, collars and cuffs of Irish lace, deeply vandyked ruby-plush caps with ostrich feathers, ruby hose and slippers with steel buckles.

A brigade of bridesmalds in white nun's veiling, bordered with white fox fur and trimmed with sliver braid, with the usual monstrous hats in toreador shapes trimmed with fur. accompanied one London bride to the altar, and another was led to the border line of the unknown by a bey, of fair damsels in dust-colored coats with lapels of claret veivet, and full waistcoats and petiticoats of dust-colored broché figured with pink and red roses. They were immense horseshoe buckles, the gift of the groom, and hats of dust-colored leit hidden beneath claret-tipped dust-tinted plumes. Very dainty and jaunty little dresses graced another wedding procession, all of croam vicuna with gold-embroidered cuffs, collars, and vests, and cream moiré Alsatian bonneta. Each carried graceful little baskets of yellow and white chrysanthemums, and, better still, each wore a gold bangle with the initials of the bride and groom twined together and set in diamonds.

the bride and groom twined together and set in diamonds.

Equally charming and attractive were some cestumes of white Parametta vigogne, embroidered with gold braid, and white feit Katrina hats, trimmed with estrich leathers and gold lace. So long as bridesmaids are thus becomingly attired, the truth of the old prophecy, that every wedding makes another soon or late, is quite sure to become apparent.

A very pretty arrangement and decidedly a novel one is to have the bridesmaids banded together with floral handcuffs, and in addition to this the bridesmaids are sometimes attached to the bridesmaids are sometimes attached to the bride by chains of roses; the chains fall asunder as soon as the wedding vow is faltered forth by the bride.

The dim and mystic light of shaded candles and subdued lamps in dining rooms has once more given place to blazing gas jets and merciless electric lights. Whereas a year ago one could scarcely distinguish her vis-d-vis in the dim rose-colored glory, now one's every crow'sfoot and wrinkle is brought out in pitiless glare and fair women need rouge to avoid looking unduly pallid. Probably when this reaction against semi-darkness has subsided a little we shall arrive at a happy mean and in the interim the electric light, which is undoubtedly the illuminating medium of the future, will have attained perfection. The spergue too, which has so long been relegated to the store room, has been rescued and restored to its pristine splendor and point of vantage.

A ladies' eyeling club is one of the new stitutions of London. It is said to owe its inauguration to the desire on the part of amateur riders for the runs from which they are now debarred on account of the long and now debarred on account of the long and fatiguing journeys chosen by men. The ciub has decided the all important question of costume, which is to consist of green and gold.

A new veil called "court patches," is orna-neuted with bits of black velvet cut into all sorts of shares—hearts, crescents, moons or stars, which fall against the cheek like beau-ty spots enhancing its fairness.

an experience hitherto unknown in all the ranks of royalty. On the 1st of January her Majesty possessed, like many of her less for-tunate sisters, but a single chemise in the world, the rest having all been burned in the fire at Lacken. Owing to the closing of all the shops in Brussels on account of the New Year's festivities, her Majesty was allowed to enjoy her altogether novel experience for sev-eral hours.

Of the three ducal brides of last year her Grace of Newcastle is the most accomplished horsewoman, and, one might infer, the most devoted wife. Her appearances in the hunting field have been few and are never likely to be frequent, for the Duke's lameness prevents his taking part in the sport, and the loyal wife is too much devoted to him to spend long days in the pursuit of a pleasure from which he is debarred. The royal bride, her Grace of is debarred. The royal bride, her Grace of Fife, is the next most proficient equestrienne in the triplet of duchesses, but her Grace of Portland, although quite capable of enjoying a good gallop on the sward, is not vary devoted to saddle exercise, being one of those tall, lithe, graceful, swan-like women who look to best advantage walking or standing.

The general usefulness of woman was never discovered until necessity compelled her to determine and demonstrate it for herself. The latest manifestation of her varied capabilities. says the Court Journal, is in the line of socalled party lady-helper, which offers considerable scope to her ingenuity. This useful personage will, for a stated amount, relieve weary nostesses of the task of catering for and entertaining a hoat of lively girls and bove and their juvenile friends home for the holidays. She must be able to superintend the cooking of seasonable dainties, the decoration of rooms, tables, and Christmas trees, the preparation of private theatricals and tableaux, and the fashloning of juvenile party costumes.

The new floral gowns are extremely pretty. fanciful little affairs, the buttercup dress being the daintlest yet devised. Its skirt of yellow gauge falls over a light net foundation, and down its breadths are chains of buttercups. The sleeves and bodice are half covered with the same flower, while fan and even shoes are in buttercup yellow. The moss dress is of dark green velvet, bordered with natural mountain moss; and the wild rose gown has a skirt composed of five panels representing the rose petals. The panels are of pale rink silk, with long, overhanging slips of green for senal. The bodice is formed of folded rose petals, with four leaves back and front from shoulder to waist, and the headdress is a single flower worn as a hat. There are forgetmenet gowns in the form and colors of the delicate flower; fuchsia dresses, with bright red panels on a white underskirt, the bodice crimson and green; and field popples, with full skirts of the softest, thinnest crimson silk, with bodices of black. skirt composed of five panels representing the

The latest device for feminine comfort and peace of mind is the patent, redestrian umbrella holder, which enables a lady to suspend the article at her side, something after the fashion of an officer's sword. This is a particularly desirable invention for chilly days, when one desires to keep both hands inside a muff. or for shopping excursions, when one hand is laden with samples and the other is required to lift the dress at ill-swept crossings. to lift the dress at ill-swept crossings. Then too, the average woman is so inclined to put her umbrella down at her side when buying a ticket in a station or making a purchase at a counter and never thinking to take it up arain. Now all these awkward situations and discomforts are avoided simply by wearing a safety chain about the waist from which depends a chatelaine with a short sheath enciroling and supporting the umbrella just where it fastens when rolled up smartly. The chatelaine hangs from either side just far enough back on the side of the dress to provent the umbrella's swinging when walking. When not in use the sheath may be carried in the pocket, and the chain, chatelaine, and all are of sliver or nickel, somewhat after the style of the key chains work by men.

Much attention is being given just now to the decoration of sideboards at banquets where flowers are use on the table. Since sideboards are intended to facilitate the serving of meals. that decoration is most appropriate which interferes least with their primary raison d'etre, Pieces of plate wreathed with flowers in the background, with a ball of blossoms suspended above or the candelabra connected with garlands of reses, makes a handsome showing lands of reass, makes a handsome showing without interfering with the service. but some hostesses insist upon a floral monogram laid in the centre. Chandellers are not at all an fair in the centre of the room, and are some times relegated to the vicinity of the ideboard, which thus becomes a very brilliant and important affair.

A fashion is being revived which had some popularity several years are, of introducing a deal leaf into the centre of the table, with aper-

tures in which pots are concealed containing growing flowers. The effect is very beautiful, but the thrifty housewife objects to pierceing her fine lines with corresponding apertures to accommodate the hidden jars.

Berry table decorations have been popular since the use of holly at Christman has revealed their beautiful possibilities. Besides the familiar scarlet berries there are rose hius and white mistletoe, arbutus and asparagus, berberries, currants, and red causicums, and even small tomatoes play an important part.

A very pretty dinner table recently arranged by a hostess possessing a great deal of antique silver had the cloth entirely hidden by very thin yellow washing silk, knotted at the corners, the ends falling over the damask. In each knot were buried the stems of great clusiers of yellow roses and maiden hair. In the folds of the silk gleamed rare bits of silver, and here and there yellow roses surrounded by radiating fronds of maden hair.

A rather pretty set decoration of leaves is a scallop arranged in front of each glate, unived between the plates by a bow or true lover's knet of flowers. Designs that savor of stiffness are not as pleasing or nopular as the more carleless artistic arrangements now in vogue; but a very handsome one, recently seen, consisted of three circles of Mrs. Polluck geranticum leaves laid one above the other, enclosing a large Benares bowl in the centre and five smaller ones about it filled with Christmas roses. In front of each guest was a small Benares vase filled with the same flowers for a souvenir. There were but tourieen guestia, and the ladies came at the request of their hostess all in white, with powdered hair.

Taste is more important in table decoration than expensive outlay, and people with artistle terceptions arrange a table far more charmingly with a lew blosseoms than others may with masses of flowers.

The decorations of the great brighton holly ball table were of a high degree of mannificence, the chird dower be being. Of course, the splendid twelfth c

WOMAN NOW AND YEARS AGO.

Our Staters and Our Grandmothers Discussed by Essayists of Tacir Own Sex.

" Ourselves and Our Grandmothers," and "The Decline of Reservo Among Women" are two articles written by women in the January number of the Nineteenth Century. Both are discussions of that interesting question, whether the women of to-day, by reason of superior education, of greater activity in public affairs, or any other reason, are less delectable and less admirable than they used to be. Perhaps the general understanding of what women were concerned with earlier in the century is not as definite or as accurate as it might be, and it is possible that not everybody is aware of the perennial nature of a discussion which is just now so active. The Countess of Jersey, the author of the first named of the Nineteenth Century articles, opens her essay with an interesting quotation:

"There has been a great deal of debate and much shedding of ink in the learned world for some time past respecting the rank that women enght to hold in the scale of creation. Some sour old bachelors have thought with Sir Anthony Absolute in the play, that women may be taught their letters, but should never learn their mischievous combinations; others, of a softer mould, have in a manner depressed while they exalted them. by bursting forth into rapturous eulogiums on their amiable virtues, which they would at the same time confine to the kitchen and nursery; while a third sort, with more liberality than the one and more boidness than the other, have contended that literature atone exalts the female character, and that every step a woman mounts in the ladder of learning, makes her more eminent in excellence." This, says the Nineteenth Century essayist.

"is not an extract from to-day's newspaper, but from the European Magazine of the year 1800; yet it seems equally applicable ninety years later. The learned world is still much exercised by the question whether women should be heroines or mothers of heroes, or whether both rôles are compatible; and the only point on which all appear to agree is that, for good or for evil, women are very different from their foremothers. It would be stronge, indeed, if, while the male half of creation is always beating the record physically and scientifically (to ear morally and artistically would be to introduce argument), the female half were to behave as birds are accused of doing, who build their nests exactly as their predecessors did when they issued from the ark. Does it, however, follow, because women have tried, sometimes wisely, sometimes foolishly, to adapt themselves to altered conditions, that they have assentially changed their natures? Is is really fact that the duties and studies which so many of them undertake were quite unknown to their grandmothers? Have they actually deteriorated physically and unfitted themselves for maternal duties by the lives which they now lead? And is it quite just to assume that, as is very commonly taken for granted, when a woman attempts anything which is more ordinarily done by men, she therefore desires to emulate or rival man? Is it not conceivable that she may sometimes like the work or sport for its own sake, without any thought of competition with the other sex? Imitation is doubtless the sincerest form of lattery, but all women are not always thinking of flattering men. Nor do men seem ever to ave appreciated this special kind of adulation. 'Philauder' sang so long ago as 1802:

Since to bandle the reins.
Hunt and shoot, you take pains,
And set, my dear girl, so uncommon;
I can't love you, I swear.
For your words, look, and air.
Make me think you a man—not a woman.

Hunt and abov. You have pains.

And ask my dear girl as uncommon:

I can't leve you, I swear.

For your words, look and air.

Make me think you a man—not a woman.

"Despite this threat we find a curious instance of Amazonian behavior two yoars later. On Aug. 25, 1804, at the York raceground, Mrs. Thornton, the wife of Col. Thornton of Thornville Royal, rode a match of four miles against Mr. Flint for 500 guineas cach. It was estimated that 100,000 spectators were present when Col. Thornton led his wife's horse on to the ground about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The lady took the lead in good style for over three miles, but her horse was seen to have much the shorter stride of the two, and within a mile of home Mr. Flint pushed forward, went ahead, and won easily. The race was run in 9 minutes and 59 seconds. Mrs. Thornton showed herself a very woman after all, for, instead of secepting her defeat, she addressed an indignant letter to the editor of the Yorz Heraid, complaining of the want of courtesy with which she was treated by her antagonist, and particularly that when her horse broke down Mr. Flint, distanced her as much as he rossibly could." In conclusion, she challenged her opponent to repeat the maich the following year.

"It would be easy, by taking the poetry, novels, memoirs, and newspapers, from the days of Spenser's Britomart downwards, to produce an ancestral pendant to almost, if not quite, overy performance of women in the present day. Perinaps their political exertions have excited the groatest unimadversion of late. Only the other days lady—a Conservative, be it said—declared these to be the diese result of the incarnation of the Evil One in the Primioss League! How truly dreadful! The dame presidents and lady secretaries of Habitations have hither to magned their entertainments to be comparatively innocent ways of associating with and amusing their neglitors of the milde and lower classes. They can no longer decive them-eived when the firm has been added to the old coile its, Who has added thei

the necessary talents. In fact, like Athene, they are to spring ready-armed from the head of Zeus. The Inevitable reflection on reading that 'strange and new requirements have been added to the old code is. Who has added them? Does any human being really expect any other to be at one and the same time, a finished artist, an accomplished musician, an untring athlete, an attentive mother, a sympathetic wife, a profound philosopher, an acute politician, a thorough houseke-per a charming hostoss, a scientific hortfoliturist, a conviction, a thorough houseke-per a charming hostoss, a scientific hortfoliturist, a conviction, a thorough and the philaminroplet, a periect linguist as brilliant conversationalist, an agreeable writer, and a indictional stail hour of secure repose in which to make good the mental or bodily wear and tear. If not—if a woman is at liberty to pick and choose amount these multifarious vocations and need only fulfil whichever she adopts duly and gracefully—the demand upon her resolves itself into little

more than the trite saving: 'What is worth doing is worth doing well'

'very lew of those who have not to earn their own living are ascually required to do more than they can reasonably secomplish with a little attention to the distribution of their time. If they plunge into works of supercreastion it is their own fault, and the teniency might be gnarded against in a girl's education by the atmole recommendation. Do your own duty before undertaking anybody else's. If a woman feels inspired to write or to speak let her do so, or if she finite pleasure in some artistic or charitable occupation let her pursue it; but she should hardly then invoke the human race to pity her for bearing a burden which is entirely self-imposed.

"There is a good deal of truth in the comparison of woman's life to an interrupted sentence. One who, not herself a breadwinner. Is in any way responsible for the management of a household, must be ready to be uppealed to in emercencies, and cannot seclude nerself for long without the risk of things going wrong; but she surely has some compensation in the avoidance of the monotonous routine to which others are condemned, and this plecemeal existence, offering as it does a constant kaledoscope of small interests, probably endows women with that quickness of perception and promptitude of decision on which they are so and to pride themselves. Waysay that George Ellote are destroyed by the load of conventional life, when George Ellot hereoff made a point of the exact fulfilme it of her household duties, and when Miss Edgeworth wrote many of her delightful stories in the common sitting room of a large samily, surrounded by the familiar hum of daily life?

"This wall of the overworked woman of the world is not after all a novel one. Pendennis was its mouthpiece forty years ago:

"She sees into the world every night and sits watching her marringeable daughters danning till long after dawn. She has a nursery of little one very likely, at

* She goes into the world every night and sits watch ig her marriageable daughters dancing till long atte

"The only practical result of any comparison between what women did in years gone by and what they do now, can be in the answer to the question. Has the female portion of mankind fallen below the physical and moral standard which was formerly attained, and which therefore was many reasonable to expect the processing of the comparison fallen below the physical and moral standard which was formerly attained, and which therefore we may reasonably be expected to reach to-day? If we have so fallen, our advisers and moralists are quite right to point out to us the error of our ways, and to hold up the brilliant examples of ancient date for our instruction. If not, if the past has only won a glory from its being far, and orbed into the perfect star men saw not when they dwelt therein, it might be better to take women as we find them, and to see what direction they can follow in order to attain to better things in future. It would be difficult indeed to prove that women have degenerated physically. If there be any such degenerated physically. If there be any such degeneration, it is more apparent among girls of the lower than among those of the upper classes, though the latter, and their mothers, are the onlef sinners in pursuit of excitement and in multiplicity of occupation. It is a common complaint that women servants cannot work as they used to do. It is quite likely, though impossible to prove, that more is demanded of them nowadays. Far more furniture and ilinen is in general use than formerly; baths and cups of the are multiplied, and few people realize how much time is consumed and how much running about is entailed by the provision of these and other little honsehold comforts. Granting, however, as beside the present question inat village girls are not so sturdy as they used to be, is it possible for any one with the most elementary powers and opportunities of observation to deny that the majority of girls in society? are not only as strong as their predecessors of, say, thirty years ago but that they are finer and

sible for any one with the most elementary powers and opportunities of observation to deny that the majority of girls in sociaty are not only as strong as their predecessors of, say, thirty years ago, but that they are finer and taller than these were and possess a greater air of health and vitality? The change in the lives of women is probably far greater in the physical than in any other.

"The position of women must to a great extent be a matter of sentiment and expediency. Most people have an idea of what they think becoming to a woman, but what they think becoming differs enormously. A foreigner, after making the very commonplace remark that, though he believed in nothing himself, he liked his wife to be religious, said that even as regards outward appearance this was the right state of things; a man kneeling looked ridiculous, but the position suited a woman's figure and the folds of her dress. He did not perceive the absurdity of either depriving a man of a spiritual necessity or forcing a woman into a meaningless attitude; but the feeling that a woman had better pursue, or refrain from a certain occupation, according to the gracefulness or otherwise of the action which it entails, is tolerably universal, and nor altogether unreasonable. It could hardly, however, be accepted as an unfailing criterion; and, if it were, who is to be the arbiter of her appearance on any given occasion? Some people think a woman out of place in a hunting field;

were, who is to be the arbiter of her apnear-ance on any given occasion? Some people think a woman out of place in a hunting field; others have no objection to her following the chase on horseback, but cannot stand her walking with a gun. Some vow that the late of England is sealed when a woman addresses an audience; others do not mind so long as it is for a charitable purpose, but their hopes for posterity are wrecked if she touches on a political question. Men have been known to declare that a knowledge of Greek destroys all social charm in a woman; while many do not declare that a knowledge of Greek destroys all social charm in a woman; while many do not object to any academical study, but give up a lady doctor as an unsexed enormity.

"Might it be suggested, with all diffidence, that the individual woman, and not her special pursuit or accomplishment, is the important consideration? Would it be too old-fashioned to go back to the story of creation, and read that the woman was made as a helpment for man? As meaner war diverse near that

read that the woman was made as a heipmeet for man? As men are very diverse, need their mothers and sisters and wives be cut all on the same pattern? If a girl is brought up as sound in body as possible, with a sense of duty as cound in body as possible, with a sense of duty as cound in body as possible, with a sense of duty acrost the coundings, as is suited to her capacity and to her probable sphere in life, surely she ought, when he would her probable sphere in life, surely she ought her probable sphere in life, surely she ought when he would her probable sphere in life, surely she ought when he would her probable sphere in life, surely she ought when he best able to be a helpment either to some ourticular man or to mankind in general. A man may need a wife essentially to look after his home and children, in which case this will undouttedly be her first duty, and any other pursuit which she may adopt for her own pleasure or satisfaction. There are not seen that the sense of t

last of having to give way altogether before
the advance of modern requirements.

"We must not be behindhand in the race for
popularity, and at this moment social success
depends not so much upon whe her the opinions we advance are true and reliable as
whether they are popular and easy.

"This, it must be remembered, is not an age
of convictions: it is an age of unbeliefs, and
the very fact that we are able to discuss our
convictions roomiscuously and sirily with a
stranger proves that they cannot be profound.

"How many women till lately, however tal-

the very fact that we are able to discuss our convictions promiscuously and sirily with a stranger proves that they cannot be profound.

"How many women till lately, however talented and well educated they were, ever dreamt of openly writing in reviews and newspapers? To do so wound probably have been considered a tew years ago a breach of feminine edupate; whereas in the army of modern seriopaters for the hosts of ever-multiplying perfodicals the petticoars are throughing the ranks. And again: Where in the history of the mast can one recall the spectacle of women standing upon a mubile obstrorm and addressing a pubile assembly 7 and new they can claim an equal right with the men to be there.

"These and other like innovations, which in so short a time have assumed such immense proportions, give one to think; and we must be excused who do not appreciate and cars not to give way to this clamor for absolute equality with the. In this respect the good old times were better, far better than the new.

"As far as public life is concerned I confess I should infinitely profer that women's assistance, however nesful should be forever dispensed with sconer than that by their admission to a share of what has hitherto belonged exclusively to men our women should loss one fraction of the nobility of their sex, or become one jot less mindful of those womanly virtues which are the glory of a civilized country.

"Let not the subtle influence of ambitton blind our eyes to the main fact. Woman's position in a Christian country has been and always should be, a splendid one, if she will only fill it worthily and not grasp at what by nature she was never intended to possess. By abusing that position she will inevitably lose the fine touch with which in days gone by she guided the footsteps of her sons; and she will now in their affliction, and degraded by constant familiarity with them. Pure religion and undefined is his, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and degraded by constant familiarity with them. Pure re

MIDWINTER FASHIONS ARROAD

Gowns Seen at the "Private View" of the Royal Academy Exhibition-Novelties at the Opera-Plain New Gowns.

The private view at Burlington House is the occasion of a great display of rich and remarkable costumes, of which the most unique and unusual are worn by the wives of the artists. Mrs. Alma Tadema wore on a recent occasion of this kind a long, artistically draped mantle of black brocade, lined with salmon pink, and a bonnet of the same color. Mrs. Brett looked very nice in a long brown plush wrap of somewhat mediaval cut, with a deep equare cape, edged with sable, and an electric blue velvet gown, with a girdle of antique blue vicuna, with a bodice faintly figured with golden brown spots and large, loose sleeves of

blue vicuna, with a bodice faintly figured with golden brown plush. A hat of shaded green completed the startling motley garb, but the weare was as pretty as she was courageous, and could be forgiven. Sleeves and collars were decided features, the former being frequently an entirely different color from the dress, and the collars were so extravagantly high one wondered where they would end. One was of gray velvet, edged with gray fur and mounted on to along mantle by means of a pointed yoke of the same. Green seemed to be the most popular color of the day, though there were some very effective dresses in red, and Lady Taibot was exquisitely dressed in gray, with a silver gray velvet mantle, finished with hanging sleeves and a high collar of chinchilla.

The bolero hat, which is of the matador shape, like the one which Toreador wears in the third act of "Carmen," and has a ribbon inserted underneath the crown to tie in a bow at the back, resting on the hair, taken in conjunction with the long Spanish cloak, with its immensely high collar, make pretty women picturesque and ugly ones ridiculous. These hats in black, with a scarlet ribbon and bow, worn in conjunction with the long Spanish cloak, with the long cloak are very effective.

A very striking dress was of black and willow green the dress being of the color and in silk, the jacket a smart little Louis Quinze affair of black silk, edged with a narrow gold cord and relieved with a vest and square pockets of light green silk, with a touch of the same color at the shoulders. The hat was a black marquise affair, trimmed with pale green feathers and worn over hair dressed like a Gainsborough pleture.

Very handsome dresses for the opera are in which breaked with a vest and square pockets of light green feathers and worn over hair dressed like a Gainsborough pleture.

Very handsome dresses for the opera are in white brocade with wreaths of flowers embroidered in colors. Velvet is also used, with raised embroidery going around the bodies and descending crosswise to the left hip. In each

scending crosswise to the left hip. In each flower dew/rops of diamonds, rubles, emeralds, or sapphires; the stones are mounted on invisible settings, and can be placed anywhere about the dress or in the hair. Opera and evening beaddresses are small, and consist of a tuft of feathers, ribbon, or small flowers on the top of the head, or, sometimes a slight wreath of foliage.

A very striking opera dress recently worn by a professional beauty was of black velvet cut very low and edged with a row of sparkling jet scales. The velvet rested against the white neck with no intervening folds of tulls, a narrow jet strap did duty for a sleeve, and the dark hair was drawn up high on the head against a diamond crescent, with the points turned upward.

A new accessory to the evening gown is the "Skie terrier" muff, which matches the dress in color, is made of finely plaited silk gauze or crope lisse, which falls all about in graceful confusion, and is supposed to resemble the little dog it is named for.

So popular is Astrakhan fur, despite its proclivity to attract and retain dust, that it is used not only to trim mantles, jackets, bonnets, and gowns, but it is even used on gloves and shoes. Astrakhan and Persian lamb appliques surrounded by braiding is the most expensive and elegant decoration for rich dresses and coats, though the ornamentation of rostumes is exceedingly varied. Some of the new embroideries are covered with boading, and the latest novelty is the "luminous fountain," constellated with stones of every available hue.

The most noticeable characteristic of gowns for midwinter wear is their plainness and severity of cut, which is continually becoming more and more marked. Drapery is a thing of the past, and skirts, though still rather full. are so arranged as to fall in unbroken lines from belt to hem, this tendency being quite as apparent in dressy toilets and evening gowns as in those for morning or afternoon wear.

The very latest thing in bodices are the new seamless affairs, which are made on a tight-fitting lining back and front, each in a single piece without either daris or seams, but just drawn in with a low gathers at the waist, the festerings being under the left arm and aboutder. The sleeves are also made in one piece cut on the cross, fulled and high on the top, but narrowing down at the wrist, where they are quite tight and close.

Lyening bodiess are cut after the same fashion, with a heart-shaped orening for the neck, and their fastenings concealed somewhere on one shoulder or under the arm.

Yery stylish French gowns are cut expresses, with a long train opening in iront over a different material, much lighter in texture and brighter in color. This same material is used for the centre of the bodice, which has the heavier material folder back from the front over the shoulders, forming a species of cape, beneath which is hidden a small undersiceve. This is like most of the so-called new isching, so he softeness with a softeness of the so-called new seemder, with waspelike wait-t and faultiess figures, and only such a willow, graceful readered in the days when according to the sortraits, all women were slonder, with waspelike wait-t and faultiess figures, and only such a willow, graceful readered and are loss heavy than the whole fur bordors and nanely, which produce the same effect, and are loss heavy than the whole fur bordors and nanely are two many coth with further and to loss heavy than the whole fur bordors and nanely are two many coth with mink, or sable, are lined to the same effect, and are loss heavy than the whole fur bordors and name, which produce the same effect, and are loss heavy than the whole fur bordors and only such a fact that any arrange of the cost him for an order of the same for same of the cape of the cost has a complete of pointable of the fact of the same for same of the formal and cut and the such that any allow the same of the same fact which formal and cut and the same for same fo The very latest thing in bodices are the new seamless affairs, which are made on a tight-